CAFOD

On the side of people in need

Review of the Year 1994

Julie Bubbers

TL 2182

leaders but must also be built from below, continued to support interreligious peace initiatives between the north east and south of the country. But, with up to 1 million displaced people, Sri Lanka was still suffering from a major refugee problem. CAFOD continued to support SEDEC's emergency relief programme, in the hope that this would become a rehabilitation and development programme in 1995.

East Timor

Although the situation within East Timor remains unstable, significant moves were made at the international level in 1994, including a number of UN-sponsored meetings between the Indonesian and Portuguese governments; and international attention was drawn to the plight of the country by brave Timorese youth, who occupied the grounds of the American embassy in Jakarta during a gathering of heads of state of the Asia Pacific rim in November.

In East Timor itself, the radio station supported by CAFOD as a community development initiative is now broadcasting, with programmes on development, culture and religious affairs. CAFOD made a grant of £8,000 to get it up and running, and supported the director during his BBC-sponsored training. CAFOD also continued to fund staff training in the diocese of Dili, and to support agricultural programmes. And in the southern part of the country it assisted peasant farmers through a grant of £12,224 made to a small organisation that encourages farmers to bring uncultivated land back into production.

Cambodia

The optimism inspired by the UN-backed elections of May 1993 proved unfounded. The divided coalition could not provide the strong leadership the country needed. However, there is a growing sense of freedom in Cambodia, and hope for a better future. CAFOD, working through the programme of CIDSE (the international grouping of Catholic development agencies), is now able to go into the villages and work with village development committees at the grass roots level. These committees decide what the needs of the villagers are and encourage people to work with CAFOD for their own development.

Integrated rural development programmes have now been set up in four provinces. They include leadership training, primary health care, construction of wells and simple irrigation works, training in improved food production using sustainable inputs, rice, cow and buffalo banks, and credit for income-generating projects.

Throughout Cambodia, the Campaign to Ban Landmines gathered momentum. About 40 organisations and nearly 300,000 individuals signed a petition which was presented to the government as part of the international campaign to ban the use, production and trade in landmines. In the UK, the campaign is being spearheaded by CAFOD. In March 1995 Tun Channareth, a young Cambodian who had lost both legs in a landmines explosion, delivered the same petition to Prime Minister John Major at Number 10 Downing Street.

Burma

In 1994, CAFOD followed up its 1993 exploratory visit to Burma by running the first training course on AIDS and HIV for the Catholic Church there. HIV is a rapidly-spreading problem, first because of Burma's position in the world drug trade's "golden triangle", second as one of the effects of militarisation, and third because of the increased trafficking in women and children for the sex trade in neighbouring countries.

In November, CAFOD also visited the northern Shan States to study some of the Church's social outreach there. In Loikow diocese, it provided £33,548 for a rehabilitation programme for Karenni people who had been forcibly displaced from their villages by the military in 1993.

Asia, the Pacific & the Middle East

Development and Emergency grants 1993/94

Country	Development (£ 000's)	Emergency (£ 000's)
Bangladesh	212.1	
Burma	10.6	33.5
Cambodia	1.2	
China	10.4	
East Timor	82.2	8.5
Hong Kong	7.2	
India	40.6	20.4
Indonesia	4.0	5.0
Iraq		33.0
Iran		10.0
Lebanon	17.0	
Nepal	7.5	
Pakistan		29.7
Papua New Guinea	9.8	6.0
Philippines	306.5	4.3
Sri Lanka	57.1	15.0
Thailand	29.7	10.1
West Bank (Jordan)	16.0	6.7
Yemen Arab Republic		25.8
Middle East general		8.0
Grants for more than one country	31.4	
TOTAL ASIA GRANTS	**843.3**	**216.0**